

Wondering About Halloween?

Tips adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
by the Newton Health and Human Services Department 10/1/20

Halloween is going to look a bit different this year as we change our habits to keep our families and our neighbors safe from COVID-19. The CDC has offered the following considerations to help everyone plan for Halloween this year:

General Considerations

- Indoor gatherings pose a higher risk than outdoor gatherings.
- Large gatherings should be avoided.
- Practice frequent hand washing, mask wearing, and social distancing both **before** and **during** any gatherings.
- If you have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 or have COVID-19 yourself, you should not attend any gatherings **or** participate in trick or treating (giving or receiving treats)
- Block parties or other events that require Newton Police or DPW presence are prohibited.

Low-Risk Activities

- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors and friends.
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house.
- Virtual Halloween costume contest.
- Having a Halloween movie night with your family.

Moderate-Risk Activities

- One-way trick-or-treating, with individually wrapped bags lined up for families to grab on a driveway or at the edge of a yard.
 - If you are preparing goodie bags, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart.
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart.
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing.
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with people spaced at least 6 feet apart.

High-Risk Activities to Avoid

- Avoid traditional trick-or-treating or "trunk-or-treating," where treats are handed out from trunks of cars lined up in large parking lots.
- Do not use a Halloween costume mask in place of a protective face covering. A protective face covering should be worn anytime you cannot be sure you will be able to maintain social distancing with people outside of your household.
- Avoid haunted houses or hayrides with people outside of your household.

You can find information from the CDC about slowing the spread of COVID-19 during the holiday season here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html#halloween>